

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing content-related information for delivery to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a reference information model for use with the content-related information; and

configuring at least a portion of the content-related information for consistency with corresponding portions of the reference information model, the portion of the content-related information so configured thereby being suitable for processing by at least the electronic program guide of the first type.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the configured portion of the content-related information is suitable for processing by the electronic program guide of the first type and at least a second electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the content-related information comprises one or more documents in an extensible mark-up language.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the reference information model comprises a plurality of classes of information, and specifies properties of the classes utilizing one or more attributes, relationships and states.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the reference information model comprises a plurality of elements including one or more enumeration elements and one or more class elements, a given one of the class elements being associated with at least a subset of the enumeration elements and at least a subset of the remaining class elements.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the given one of the class elements comprises a program class element, and the remaining class elements comprise one or more of movie, episode, personnel, cast, credits, station and designated market area class elements.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein instances of the classes are configured as objects in an object-oriented programming format, and one or more of the objects contain structures represented as attributes.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the reference information model is configured in accordance with a unified modeling language format.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step further comprises generating one or more schema associated with the electronic program guide of the first type, the schema being generated based at least in part on an associated portion of the reference information model, and utilizing the schema to generate one or more documents comprising the content-related information.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuring step further comprises generating a plurality of different schema, each of the schema being associated with one or more of the electronic program guide of the first type and an electronic program guide of a second type different than the first type, each of the schema being utilized to generate one or more documents comprising the content-related information.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the reference information model is generated utilizing an iterative process in which an initial version of the model is generated using a first set of data specifications, and at least one subsequent version of the model is generated from the initial version using at least a second set of data specifications.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one subsequent version of the model is periodically updated in accordance with one or more sets of updated data specifications.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step comprises transforming the content-related information from a first format not compliant with the reference information model to a second format compliant with the reference information model.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the content-related information in the first format comprises one or more documents for use with an electronic program guide of a type not based on the reference information model, and further wherein the documents are

converted to the second format so as to be utilizable at least by the electronic program guide of the first type.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the transforming step
5 utilizes an extensible mark-up language style sheet generated at least in part utilizing the content-related information in the first format and the reference information model.

16. A method for use in a processing device configured to
10 support an electronic program guide of a first type for processing content-related information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the content-related information, at least a portion of the content-related information being configured for consistency with corresponding portions of a reference information model, the portion of the content-related information so configured thereby being suitable for processing by at least the electronic program guide of the first type; and

processing the content-related information to generate a corresponding output at the processing device.

17. An apparatus for processing content-related information for delivery to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type, the apparatus comprising:

a processor operative to configure at least a portion of
25 the content-related information for consistency with corresponding portions of a reference information model, the portion of the content-related information so configured thereby being suitable

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for processing by at least the electronic program guide of the first type; and

a memory coupled to the processor, for at least temporarily storing at least a portion of the content-related information.

18. An apparatus associated with a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type for processing content-related information, the apparatus comprising:

a processor operative to implement at least a portion of the electronic program guide of the first type for processing the content-related information, at least a portion of the content-related information being configured for consistency with corresponding portions of a reference information model, the portion of the content-related information so configured thereby being suitable for processing by at least the electronic program guide of the first type; and

a memory coupled to the processor, for at least temporarily storing at least a portion of the content-related information.

19. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium containing one or more software programs for processing content-related information for delivery to a processing device configured to support an electronic program guide of a first type, wherein the one or more software programs when executed implement the steps of:

determining a reference information model for use with the content-related information; and

configuring at least a portion of the content-related information for consistency with corresponding portions of the reference information model, the portion of the content-related
5 information so configured thereby being suitable for processing by at least the electronic program guide of the first type.

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